

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, February 4, 1877, with transcript

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Can., February 4th, 77. (No envelope) My dear Aleck,

How do you like your Father's new stamp? We received your telegram and your Father now awaits a letter which possibly we may see tomorrow. We rejoice to hear continued good news of the Telephone. As the Expositor has copied one of the reports contained in the three papers, you lately sent us, I shall forward that to Dr. Munro at Moffat, who will likely get it inserted in the Dumfriesshire papers. Of course you know your Uncle Edward's address in Melbourne, and that he will be interested in everything concerning the Telephone. Your Aunt Ellen is getting better but is not quite well yet. We do not know exactly what her complaint has been, except that it caused excruciating pains in the left side. The Dr. I believe thought it owing to derangement of the digestive powers. They have heard at your Uncle David's from Chester and from Lewis, the former is appointed to the London University (but we do not yet know the particulars) and the latter has been awarded a pension of 2/6 pr day for two years on account of his arm, which was hurt in the discharge of his duty. Sophie will rejoice very much at having her brother with her, or at any rate near her. I wrote on Sunday last to Mabel and hope the little skeletons were not crushed to dust in their travels. I intended, but neglected till too late, to tell her what a delightfully warm, soft comforter, I have in the shawl she sent me last year. I always wear it and the young people tell me it is the most becoming wrap I wear. I hope she exerts her influence to keep you from making too free use of your hurt foot. How is Mr. McCurdy? And does Gertrude feel stronger now in the more bracing weather? I believe you were to lecture again last week and we hope it went off well. We have beautiful weather but the roads are dreadful. From our house to the corner, the buggy will not go through the snow, from thence to the Town the cutter cannot run upon the bare ground, so those who do not care for an extra disagreeable walk have to stay at home. Carrie and George were down

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two days ago, all well except her Mother's foot, whose broken chilblain upon a bunion has caused her much suffering. Carrie had just a day or two before returned from paying a week's visit to the Randall's of Paris. I told you I think of Julia Reed's marriage to Mr. Archer of the Bank of Montreal, he is now in the Bank at Paris. Our old neighbour, Mrs. Towles is not likely to live. She has been ill for some months, and can now only breathe through a hole artificially made in the windpipe. Her husband is in much the same state as he has been for a long time. Mr. McIntyre has been in the again and broken one of his ribs. (Monday) Mary after all, was unable to go to the Calico ball, which Aileen said was the best of the 3 season. The latter goes again to Hamilton tomorrow to be present at some grand ball there. She seems to live only in the atmosphere of balls and parties. Mary's taste lies in quite an opposite direction, she cares nothing for them, and she is wise. You see I am writing without much to say for no events have happened within the house beyond the killing of birds. The thaw is off again, and this morning we have a very hard frost, after quite a London fog which prevailed last night.

Papa is going in today and I hope may bring back a note from you. With fond love my dear boy, in which Papa unites, also to Mabel,

Your affectionate Mother, E. G. Bell. I hope your old nightshirts will last out till we see you again. I am getting on nicely with the new ones.